

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the Office Action. Claims 1, 9, 14-15, and 18-20 have been amended. Support for the amendments is found in paragraphs [0023] and [0024] of Applicant's published application, Publication No. US 2002/0083900. No new matter has been added. The rejections of the claims are respectfully traversed in light of the amendments and following remarks, and reconsideration is requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 8-9, and 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Zarski (U.S. Pat. No. 5,947,056).

Zarski discloses "first and second containers 24, 26" which are filled with "water and pourable food" that are "removed from their respective receptacles 20, 22" to allow for feeding (Zarski, col.3, ll.21-32), with the receptacles 20, 22 preferably having "ventilation when the case 12 is in its closed state to ensure they remain dry." (Zarski, col.5, ll.53-55). If containers 24, 26 were not removable, the openings of containers 24, 26 would not be accessible and therefore containers 24, 26 could not be filled with food. Furthermore, no receptacle for feeding would be available if containers 24, 26 were not removable. Thus, Zarski discloses removable containers for storing food and respective receptacles that "serve as feeding dishes." (Zarski, col.3, ll.32-33).

In contrast, amended Claim 1 recites a "portable pet-feeding container, comprising . . . a skirt integrally surrounding said reservoir." Therefore, because Zarski does not disclose or suggest "a skirt integrally surrounding said reservoir," as recited in Claim 1, Claim 1 is patentable over Zarski.

Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, and 12 are dependent on Claim 1 and contain additional limitations that further distinguish them from the cited reference. In particular, Zarski does not disclose or suggest the "portable pet-feeding container . . . wherein said skirt includes grooves for holding a leash which is wrapped around said container," as recited in Claim 8. Furthermore, Zarski does not disclose or suggest the "portable pet-feeding container . . . wherein said reservoir is integrated within said skirt," as recited in amended Claim 9. Therefore, Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, and 12 are allowable for at least the same reasons provided above for Claim 1.

Claim 13 recites “a first portable pet-feeding container removably coupled to a second portable pet-feeding container.” Zarski does not disclose or suggest “removably coupled” pet-feeding containers, as recited in Claim 13. Accordingly, Claim 13 is patentable over Zarski.

Claims 14-17 are dependent on Claim 13 and contain additional limitations that further distinguish them from the cited reference. In particular, amended Claims 14 and 15 recite a “skirt integrally surrounding said . . . reservoir,” similar to the recitation of Claim 1. Therefore, Claims 14-17 are allowable for at least the same reasons provided above for Claim 13 and for similar reasons provided above for Claim 1.

Amended Claim 18 recites a “method for traveling with a pet using a portable pet-feeding container . . . comprising . . . providing food and/or water in an integrally-formed reservoir of said container . . . shortening a leash by wrapping said leash around a skirt.”

Similarly, amended Claim 19 recites a “method for traveling with a pet using a portable pet-feeding container system . . . comprising . . . providing a first portable pet-feeding container with a first integrally-formed reservoir . . . providing a second portable pet-feeding container with a second integrally-formed reservoir . . . and coupling said first skirt to said second skirt.”

Zarski does not disclose or suggest an “integrally-formed reservoir” nor “shortening a leash by wrapping said leash around a skirt,” as recited in Claim 18. Furthermore, Zarski does not disclose or suggest providing a first and a second “portable pet-feeding container with a . . . integrally-formed reservoir” nor “coupling said first skirt to said second skirt,” as recited in Claim 19. Accordingly, Claims 18 and 19 are patentable over Zarski.

Claim 20 is dependent on Claim 19 and contains additional limitations that further distinguish it from the cited reference. In particular, Zarski does not disclose or suggest “shortening a leash by wrapping said leash around at least one skirt,” as recited in Claim 20. Therefore, Claim 20 is allowable for at least the same reasons provided above for Claim 19.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7, 10, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zarski.

Claims 7, 10, and 11 are dependent on Claim 1 and contain additional limitations that further distinguish them from the cited reference. Therefore, Claims 7, 10, and 11 are allowable for at least the same reasons provided above for Claim 1.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zarski in view of Magnant et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,787,839 hereinafter “Magnant”). Claim 5 is dependent on Claim 1 and contains additional limitations that further distinguish it from Zarski. Magnant does not cure the deficiencies of Zarski noted above and therefore, Claim 5 is patentable over Zarski in view of Magnant for at least the same reasons provided above for Claim 1.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zarski in view of Edwards et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,240,881 hereinafter “Edwards”). Claim 3 is dependent on Claim 1 and contains additional limitations that further distinguish it from Zarski. Edwards does not cure the deficiencies of Zarski noted above and therefore, Claim 3 is patentable over Zarski in view of Edwards for at least the same reasons provided above for Claim 1.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, Applicant believes pending Claims 1-20 are now in condition for allowance and allowance of the Application is hereby solicited. If the Examiner should have any questions or concerns, the Examiner is hereby requested to telephone Applicant’s Attorney at (949) 752-7040.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 19, 2003.



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February 19, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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